

claims, unless the claim language is expressly quoted in the following remarks to distinguish over the cited art.

In the Office Action, claims 8, 16, 24, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for insufficient antecedent basis.

Responsive to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicants are amending claims 8, 16, 24, and 32 as indicated above to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph in the Office Action.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 9-12, 17-20, and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wesinger Jr. et al. (USP 5,778,367) in view of the Official Notice. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Wesinger is directed to an information system, where an incentive is given to a user to provide requested information (i.e., identity of the user) by permitting more complete access to the database to the user if the user provides the requested information. Users who provide the requested information are assigned a user ID to be used during subsequent accesses and are requested to choose a password (see column 7, lines 48-60). Thus, Wesinger discloses a method where the user controls his/her own access to the database by providing the requested information.

The Examiner also takes Official Notice that "sending an authentication e-mail to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation" is common and well known. Applicants respectfully traverse these assertions in the Office Action, and in accordance with MPEP 2144.03, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to cite a reference in support of these assertions and/or to submit an affidavit in support of these assertions.

Furthermore, independent claim 1 distinguishes over the combination of Wesinger and the Official Notice at least by reciting, a method including "*if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field*", and such recited features are not disclosed or suggested Wesinger and the Official Notice, considered singly or in combination.

It would not have been obvious to modify Wesinger with the features noted in the Official Notice because Wesinger teaches away from the features recited in claim 1 and from the combination suggested by the Examiner. In particular Wesinger discloses that the user controls his/her own access to information in the database based upon the user providing requested information. Wesinger does not disclose or suggest, "*allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field*'. Therefore, the

modification of Wesinger, as suggested in the Office Action, is improper.

Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to modify Wesinger with the features noted in the Official Action because the combination would require a substantial reconstruction and redesign of the elements disclosed in the primary reference. (See MPEP 2143.01). For example, there is no suggestion in the references on how to modify the elements in the Wesinger to perform the step of *"if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field"*. Furthermore, Wesinger and the features in the Official Notice do not suggest or disclose any interface circuitry, modules, systems, methods, and/or techniques that permit the elements disclosed in Wesinger to perform the step of *"if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field"*. Therefore, the modification of Wesinger, as suggested in the Office Action, is improper.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Action.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable over the same combination.

Each of the claims 2-8 further distinguishes over the combination of Wesinger and the Official Notice by reciting additional features.

Accordingly, each of the claims 2-8 is patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice.

Independent claims 9, 17, and 25 are each patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice at least for the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable over the same combination.

Accordingly, each of the claims 9, 17, and 25 is patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice.

Claims 10-16 depend from claim 9 and are patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice for at least the same reasons that claim 9 is patentable over the same combination.

Each of the claims 10-16 further distinguishes over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice by reciting additional features.

Claims 18-24 depend from claim 17 and are patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice for at least the same reasons that claim 17 is patentable over the same combination.

Each of the claims 18-24 further distinguishes over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice by reciting additional features.

Claims 26-32 depend from claim 25 and are patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice for at least the same reasons that claim 25 is patentable over the same combination.

Each of the claims 26-32 further distinguishes over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice by reciting additional features.

Accordingly, each of the claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-24, and 26-32 is patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Notice.

For the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In the Office Action, claims 7, 15, 23, and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and complying with double patenting statutes. New independent claim 33 includes all of the limitations of base claim 1 and claim 7, and accordingly, claim 33 is in condition for allowance. New independent claim 34 includes all of the limitations of base claim 9 and claim 15, and accordingly, claim 34 is in condition for allowance. New independent claim 35 includes all of the limitations of base claim 17 and claim 23, and accordingly, claim 35 is in condition for allowance. New independent claim 36 includes all of the limitations of base claim 25 and claim 31, and accordingly, claim 36 is in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 37-38 are being added and recite features that are not disclosed or suggested by Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Action, considered singly or in combination. New dependent claims 37-38 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Action. Alternatively or additionally, claims 37-38 each recites additional features, and these features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Wesinger and the features noted in the Official Action, considered singly or in combination.

In summary, claim 1-38 are now pending in this application. This response amends claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24, 25, and 32, and adds claims 33-38. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-38.

If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically point out where such teachings may be found.

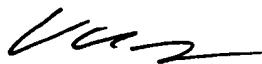
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification or claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (650) 842-0302.

Date: September 9, 2002

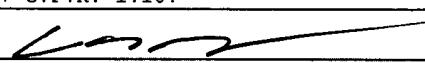
Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24, 25, and 32 as shown below:

1. (Amended) A method of providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising the steps of:

    providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

    allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

        allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;

        storing said information; and

        sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

    allowing the user to search for one or more records;

    allowing the user to view said records; and

    if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field.

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8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

9. (Amended) A computer system for providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records; and

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field.

16. (Amended) The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

17. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records; and

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field.

24. (Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

25. (Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

    providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

    allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

        allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;

        storing said information; and

        sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

    allowing the user to search for one or more records;

    allowing the user to view said records; and

    if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field.

32. (Amended) The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Please add new claims 33-38 as shown below:

33. (New) A method of providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records; and

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

34. (New) A computer system for providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records; and

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

35. (New) A computer-readable storage medium, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records; and if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

36. (New) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records; and

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

37. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

editing the electronic business card to permit a temporary location pointer to the user.

38. (New) The computer system of claim 9, further comprising:

editing the electronic business card to permit a temporary location pointer to the user.